

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

FOR VOTERS IN THE VILLAGE OF NILES



There will be **two referenda questions** initiated by Mayor George D. Alpogianis and the Board of Trustees for Niles voters' consideration at the upcoming primary election on June 28, 2022:

1. VILLAGE OF NILES GOLF MILL SHOPPING CENTER (ADVISORY QUESTION)

Shall the Village of Niles pursue and enact policies that promote and enhance economic development, beautification, and public safety in the Village of Niles by working to revitalize and redevelop the Golf Mill Shopping Center?

What this means:

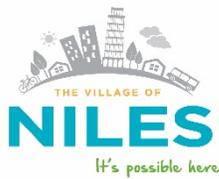
If this referendum passes, the Village will know it has voter support to pursue redevelopment and modernization of Golf Mill. Thus creating additional jobs, growing the Village's sales tax revenue, beautifying the Village as well as enhancing public safety.

2. VILLAGE OF NILES FORM OF GOVERNMENT (BINDING QUESTION)

Shall the form of government in the Village of Niles comply with the Trustee-Village Form of Government provided in Article 3.1 of the Illinois Municipal Code (65 ILCS 5/3.1, et seq.) as it pertains to the manner of election and appointment of officers in the Village of Niles with any and all contrary provisions previously enacted by referenda, ordinance, or otherwise on or after March 18, 2014 being repealed?

What this means:

The Village's Code for electing and appointing officials is currently not in compliance with existing State Law or our State Constitution because of previous local referenda. Passing this referendum would bring uniformity to the Village's Code with existing law and ensures continuity of government.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR VOTERS IN THE VILLAGE OF NILES

**THERE WILL BE TWO REFERENDA QUESTIONS INITIATED BY
MAYOR GEORGE D. ALPOGIANIS AND THE BOARD OF
TRUSTEES FOR NILES VOTERS' CONSIDERATION AT THE
UPCOMING PRIMARY ELECTION ON JUNE 28, 2022**

**Referendum Question Regarding the Golf Mill Shopping Center
and
Referendum Question Concerning the Village Form of Government**

The Village is providing the following factual information to educate Niles Voters about the nature of the two referenda questions. Pursuant to applicable law, the Village is providing this information to assist you in understanding the impact of your vote in advance of your heading to the polls.

These referenda will be included on all primary ballots regardless of party denomination.

Referendum Question Regarding the Golf Mill Shopping Center (Advisory Question)

This referendum question, which will appear on the June 28, 2022, Primary Election ballot, reads:

“Shall the Village of Niles pursue and enact policies that promote and enhance economic development, beautification, and public safety in the Village of Niles by working to revitalize and redevelop the Golf Mill Shopping Center?”

This is an **advisory** question but is still an extremely important tool for Voters to give direct input and opinion to the Village concerning plans to redevelop and reimagine the Golf Mill Shopping Center.

The Golf Mill Shopping Center currently sits in a tax increment financing district and the Village is considering proposals regarding how best to help re-develop, modernize, and beautify the Shopping Center while spurring new economic development.

If the question passes, the Village will know it has the Voters' confidence to pursue this project, which may require Village time and resources in the very near term. Proponents argue that approval of this question will ensure that the Village pursues a potentially vital project for the Village's long-term, economic health that will spur economic development, bring additional jobs to the Village and will further enhance overall beautification and public safety in the Village.

If a majority of voters do not approve of this question, the Village will know that there is not widespread support of this preliminary concept and may need to look to obtain further resident feedback. Opponents argue that the Village should focus on other projects and matters before this one.

Referendum Question Concerning the Village Form of Government (Binding Question)

This referendum question, which will appear on the June 28, 2022, Primary Election ballot, reads:

“Shall the form of government in the Village of Niles comply with the “Trustee-Village” Form of Government provided in Article 3.1 of the Illinois Municipal Code (65 ILCS 5/3.1, et seq.) as it pertains to the manner of election and appointment of officers in the Village of Niles with any and all contrary provisions previously enacted by referenda, ordinance, or otherwise on or after March 18, 2014 being repealed?”

This **binding** question asks Niles Voters to confirm the laws applicable to the Village government as it pertains to the manner of election and appointment of Village officials. The Village currently operates under the “Trustee-Village” Form of Government but with deviations from the statutes and laws of Illinois due to local referenda results.

If approved, this referendum question would allow the Village to continue operating under a “Trustee-Village” form of government and would automatically bring the Village's Code into conformity with the State Constitution and existing State law. This would ensure the Illinois Municipal Code will determine the manner in which Village officials are elected and appointed. Proponents argue that this measure enhances transparency and good governance by providing residents a clear resource to determine how local government is run and regulated, while also ensuring that Village officials do not neglect their duties and can ensure all necessary positions are filled with the most qualified people. For example, as a result of previous referenda, the Village of Niles is one of the only municipalities operating under the Trustee-Village

form of government where local referenda attempted to strip the Mayor and Board of the power to appoint or fill vacancies when needed.

If voters do not approve of this question, the Village's Code would remain unchanged, not in compliance with existing State Law and our State Constitution, with any applicable modifications made by referenda, ordinance, or otherwise since March 18, 2014. Additionally, the manner of election and appointment of officials also would remain in place and subject to potential litigation.

Opponents of this referendum question want the Village Code to remain out of compliance with existing State Law and want the Village to remain subject to all prior referenda.

Ultimately, the Voters will decide whether the Village's "Form of Government" pertaining to the manner of electing and appointing Village officials should comply and conform with the State Constitution and laws or remain as-is.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS IMPORTANT INFORMATION!

Additional voting and ballot information is available from the Office of the Cook County Clerk:

69 W. Washington St., Suite 500

Chicago, IL 60602

PHONE: (312) 603-0906

FAX: (312) 603-9786

<https://www.cookcountyclerkil.gov/elections>

Prepared and Paid for By the Village of Niles.

The Village of Niles, as a governmental body spending taxpayer funds, cannot take a position on the outcome of any referenda questions but may provide factual, educational materials to its residents. The information contained herein is provided as factual, educational materials only.